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CLAIMS

1. An article of apparel, such as a shoe, carrying a chamber and illumination means for illuminating the chamber with light, the chamber having light-affecting means adapted to affect light from the illumination means, and the chamber having a window for enabling the effect of the light affecting means on light from the illumination means to be viewed.

2. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means is movable within the chamber.

3. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means are mounted to a part of the article so as to be movable with respect to the article.

4. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means comprises an object mounted within the chamber so as to be rotatable or oscillatable.

5. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means comprises a light affecting object and vibration means for causing the object to vibrate.

6. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means comprises a light affecting mass and a resilient member for coupling the mass to the article.

7. An article according to claim 6, wherein the mass comprises a mirror and the resilient member comprises a spring.

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8. An article according to claim 6, wherein the mass comprises a reflector and the resilient member comprises a filament.

5 9. An article according to claim 1, wherein the light affecting means comprises a disc rotatably mounted to the article by an axle and a mass mounted eccentrically on the disc.

10 10. An article according to any one of claims 1 to 9, comprising a motive means for moving the light affecting means in response to movement of at least a part of a wearer of the article.

15 11. An article according to claim 10, wherein the motive means comprises a hydraulic or pneumatic system.

20 12. An article according to claim 11, wherein the hydraulic or pneumatic system comprises a pump, at least one valve and an impeller.

25 13. An article according to any of claims 1 or 12, comprising an electric means for moving the light affecting means.

14. An article according to any preceding claim, further comprising illumination control means for controlling the illumination means.

30 15. An article according to claim 14, wherein the illumination control means comprises a motion sensor and a microcontroller.

35 16. An article according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the illumination control means is operable to control the

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illumination means so that the illumination means and light affecting means produce an image.

5 17. An article according to claim 10 or any of claims 14 to 16 when dependent on claim 10, further comprising control means for controlling the motive means.

10 18. An article according to claim 17, wherein the control means is operable to control the motive means so that the illumination means and light affecting means produce an image.

15 19. An article according to claim 16 or 18, wherein the control means is operable to receive information defining an image.

20 20. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said chamber contains a liquid and the light affecting means comprise particles freely movable in the chamber.

25 21. An article of apparel according to claim 20, wherein said liquid comprises a mixture of water and a surfactant.

22. An article of apparel according to claim 20 or 21, wherein said liquid comprises an antibacterial additive.

30 23. An article of apparel according to any of claims 1 to 19, wherein said chamber contains a gel or gas.

35 24. An article of apparel according to of the preceding claims, wherein said light affecting means comprise light reflecting means.

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25. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the light affecting means comprises light refracting means for affecting light from the illumination means by refraction.

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26. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the light affecting means comprises light diffracting means for affecting light from the illumination means by diffraction.

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27. An article according to any preceding claim, wherein the light affecting means comprises light polarising means.

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28. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said light affecting means comprise coloured light affecting means.

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29. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said light affecting means comprise metallic light affecting means.

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30. An article of apparel according to claim 28, wherein said light affecting means comprise coloured glass or plastic elements.

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31. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising activating means for activating said illumination means.

32. An article of apparel according to claim 28, wherein said activating means includes a motion sensor.

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33. An article of apparel according to claim 32, wherein said motion sensor is responsive to motion of a wearer of the article.

5 34. An article of apparel according to claim 32, wherein said motion sensor is responsive to footsteps of the wearer.

10 35. An article of apparel according to any of claims 32 to 34, wherein said motion sensor comprises a switch selected from a piezoelectric switch;
a pressure switch;
a mechanical switch; and
15 a tilt switch.

36. An article of apparel according to any one of claims 31 to 35, wherein said activating means is operable to cause the illumination means to carry out a predetermined or random lighting sequence.

20 37. An article of apparel according to any of claims 32 to 36, wherein the illumination means comprises a plurality of different light sources and the activating means is operable to activate the light sources in a
25 predetermined or random sequence.

38. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said window is formed of light transmissive plastics material.

30 39. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said illumination means is positioned so as not to be visible through the window.

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40. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said illumination means comprises at least one LED.

5 41. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said illumination means comprises a number of different colour light sources.

10 42. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the light affecting means comprise particles moveable in the chamber.

15 43. An article of apparel according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a back wall of said chamber is dark in colour enabling the effect of the light affecting means on the light from the illumination means to be viewed in greater contrast.

20 44. An article of apparel according to claim 43, wherein said light affecting means comprise one or more portions of light affecting material on a wall of said chamber.

25 45. An article of apparel according to claim 44, wherein said one or more portions of light affecting material form an image.

30 46. An article of apparel according to claim 44 or claim 45, wherein said one or more portions of light affecting material comprise dots.

35 47. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said illumination means are provided on a movement means for enabling relative movement between the illumination means and said light affecting means.

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48. An article according to claim 1, wherein the chamber contains an atmosphere that generates light in response to electrical discharge and voltage producing means are provided for causing electrical discharge to cause light generation by the gas.

49. An article according to claim 48, wherein the atmosphere comprises at least one of neon and argon.

50. An article according to claim 48 or 49, wherein the atmosphere is contained in a bulb within the chamber.

51. An article of apparel according to any of the preceding claims, wherein said article of apparel is a shoe and said chamber is provided on a side of said shoe.

52. An article of apparel according to any one of claims 1 to 50, comprising a shoe having said chamber in its heel.

53. A chamber for attachment to an article of apparel, wherein said chamber is illuminable with light, the chamber containing light affecting means adapted to affect light from an illumination means, and the chamber having a window for enabling the effect of the light affecting means on the light from the illumination means to be viewed.

54. A kit comprising a light affecting means as set out in any of claims 1 to 53, and illumination means for incorporation in a shoe to illuminate the light affecting means.

55. A kit according to claim 54, further comprising control means for controlling the illumination means.